

## Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 1875, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell June —75 Tutelo Heights Brantford, Ont., Canada Home June—75 (Prof. A. Graham Bell 292 Essex Street Salem, Mass. U. S.) My dear Aleck,

Having written in the middle of the previous week I did not write on Sunday, but waited till after Mrs. Lander's visit, whom I told you we expected to see. I was in an awful quake wondering what I should do without a servant, with a guest accustomed to so much nicety. Mrs. Hartley (our washer) said that if a daughter whom she expected, came home she would try to stay with me herself during Mrs. L's visit but it was quite uncertain. So I screwed up my courage and thought that as Aunt Ellen would be here, her lively conversation might cover my unavoidable absence in the kitchen. Well, as Uncle says, "we cannot tell what a day may bring forth". On Thursday morning before Mrs. L. came, two persons entered the gate, one of them a lady. I scampered off in double quick to change my kitchen dress for a more presentable one, when what should the lady want but a situation as servant, and her son who was with her, as out-door servant!! His Mamma was very respectable looking, and according to her own account, a first rate cook. Your Papa was satisfied with her reference and though we do not want the boy, Papa gave him work on Uncle's ground, and engaged the two for a fortnight. So I was helped most completely over my difficulty. If work can be found for the boy in the neighborhood, I shall be able to keep her, which I hope may be the case. Mrs. Lander arrived at midnight on Monday and left us on Friday Afternoon. She goes first to Washington and then to London. Uncle and Aunt were here during the first part of her visit, and on Thursday we dined with them, and took our tea with Carrie. Mrs. L. seemed to be very favorably impressed with Carrie's 2 establishment and the family. I never saw George look so well or so bright. I am very glad, because Mrs. L. will carry a pleasing account to Oakley Square. Mr. Cathcart

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is to start for New York in July, a member of Sullivan's party (or Sullivan's, I do not know the right orthography). We are all jogging on much as usual. Uncle and your Father talking of and planning readings in the States, which are to take place at some convenient time not yet known. We have queer weather, the ground dry and excessively thirsty, very hot till yesterday when the thermometer fell and by bed-time reached freezing point. It is cool today, but a clear bright sky gives no promise of the much coveted moisture. We hope your affairs are progressing and that you will not lose any of your usual holiday. We long very much to see you, and wish you could come earlier in the season to avoid the Autumn business. Your Uncle and Aunt have been to Toronto with Charlie, but I fear that nothing suitable has yet turned up for him. We think it very doubtful if your Uncle builds in the wood after all, and I should not wonder if Papa buys it of him. This he would rather do than run the risk of its being chipped down. You cannot think how much the view from Eagle Seat is enlarged and improved, by the trees being removed from your Uncle's dale. Poor Polly have been keeping the road and trotting as usual in spite of her blindness. Yesterday however something else ailed her and she could not go out. I much wish Papa would give up driving her. I always fear her strength may desert her as suddenly as her sight has done, and that she may drop down in harness. Papa has heard of a nice gentle creature belonging to Mr. Greenwood, only she is young and he prefers Polly as long as she can trot. I think I have told you all our little news, save the number of chicks which have cracked the shell, and the little squeakers which are hourly expected. God bless my dear boy, let us hear from you soon, with good news and say when we may look for you. With dear love in which your Father unites, I am you

Your ever affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell